CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1.   A method comprising:

     receiving from a remote site a request to access a first file having a plurality of
     blocks, said request having a pre-defined format encapsulating an original
     request of a client of a synchronous client-server system and in accordance
     with a pre-defined file system;

10   determining, for each of at least some of said plurality of blocks, a differential
     portion representing a difference between each said block and a corresponding
     block of a second file; and

     sending said differential portion to said remote site.

15 2.   The method of claim 1, comprising reconstructing said first file at said remote
     site based on said differential portion and said second file.

3.   The method of claim 1, comprising identifying one or more blocks of said first
     file with a unique ID corresponding to a content of said one or more blocks.

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4.   The method of claim 1, comprising identifying one or more blocks of said first
     file with a hash value of the contents of said one or more blocks.

5.   The method of claim 1, comprising receiving from said remote site a lock

25   request when said remote site requests to modify said first file.

6.   The method of claim 1, comprising determining whether said second file
     correlates to said first file based on a heuristic.

30 7.   The method of claim 6, comprising monitoring a modification performed on
     said first file.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving comprises receiving from said remote site a request to access said first file using a global name space of said client-server system.

9.   The method of claim 1, comprising receiving from said remote site a request for authentication using a pass-through challenge-response mechanism.

10. The method of claim 1, comprising processing a set of credentials for authentication.

11. The method of claim 1, comprising storing said differential portion in a directory for later retrieval of a version of said first file.

12. The method of claim 1, comprising setting a read-only access permission to a files is said remote site if said remote site is non communicating.

13. The method of claim 1, comprising storing in a cache at least one block of said second file.

14. A method comprising:
     receiving from a remote site a request to access a first file, said request having a pre-defined format encapsulating an original request of a client of a synchronous client-server system and in accordance with a pre-defined file system;
     determining, based on a heuristic, that said first file correlates to a second file having similar data;
     determining a differential portion representing a difference between said first file and said second file; and
     sending said differential portion to said remote site.

15. A system comprising:

a first computing platform having access to a first file and a second file, the first file having a plurality of blocks; and

a second computing platform having access to said first file,

5   wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a request to access said second file, said request having a pre-defined format encapsulating an original request of a client of a synchronous client-server system and in accordance with a pre-defined file system,

10   wherein said first computing platform is able to determine, for each of at least some of said plurality of blocks, a differential portion representing a difference between each said block and a corresponding block of said second file,

and wherein said first computing platform is able to send said differential

15   portion to said second computing platform.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein said second computing platform is able to reconstruct said second file based on said differential portion and said first file.

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17. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to identify one or more blocks of said second file with a unique ID which corresponds to a content of said one or more blocks.

25 18. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to identify one or more blocks of said second file with a hash value of the contents of said one or more blocks.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to

30   receive from said second computing platform a lock request when said second computing platform requests to modify said second file.

20.   The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to determine whether said first file correlates to said second file based on a heuristic.

21.   The system of claim 19, wherein said first computing platform is able to monitor a modification performed on said first file.

22.   The system of claim 14, wherein said first file and said second file share a global name space.

23.   The system of claim 14 wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a request for authentication using a pass-through challenge-response mechanism.

24.   The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a set of credentials for authentication.

25.   The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to store said differential portion in a directory associated with an archived version of said second file.

26.   The system of claim 14, comprising a cache to store at least one block of said first file.

27.   A computing platform able to determine, based on a heuristic, that a first file correlates to a second file having similar contents, to calculate a differential portion representing a difference between said first file and said second file, and to send said differential portion to another computing platform.